

IN TOUCH

RUT, ROT, or REVIVAL

Dear Friend:

We all know Israel is fighting a terrible enemy right now. If Hezbollah ups the attacks Israel will be fighting against two enemies. As I noted in last week's sermon: wars and rumors of wars have been happening in that region for 4,000 years - Abraham was the first Jew to go to war. Death is always a part of war. Physical death is terrible, but do we think much about spiritual death, or how many of those who have died were not spiritually ready?

A look back at the Old Testament reveals that Israel's spiritual death (disobedience to God) led to physical death as Israel fell to Assyria, Babylon, and Persia. The enemy that threatened Israel the most was not a nation but an attitude and life apart from God. The result... spiritual complacency! In their 40-year wilderness experience they had become complacent walking in circles. Eventually they did form a nation, but spiritual complacency followed them into the Promised Land. They twiddled their thumbs, waiting for the customary to keep on being the customary.

What was Israel's worst enemy? Complacency! Complacency is the worst enemy of both Christians and the church. When we come to the place where everything can be predicted and nobody expects anything unique from God, we are in a rut! When we are at the place where we can tell not only what will happen this Sunday, and the Sunday after that, and the Sunday after that we are in a rut. God's people are supposed to grow, not live in a rut. When a church or individual is in a rut I see 3 options.

Option 1: Stay in the rut. A rut is defined as: repetition without feeling. Take no risk, try nothing new, keep expectations low and a rut is an easy place to live. Option 2: stay in a rut until you rot (spiritually). Rot naturally follows a rut. Rot comes from the inside-out. A tree usually rots from the inside out and so do people and churches. Those who reach the rot stage have what I call: the psychology of nonexpectation. Along with this comes the inability to visualize anything getting better and a lack of desire for improvement. Individuals and churches who hit the rot stage MUST cry-out for revival or die. Option 3 is: Revival. The word revival comes from the word revive. Another way of saying revive is: "To live again". Oh the joy, the refreshing life of living again. I believe most of you reading this want the option of revival. Let's open our hearts and mouths and pray to God: "Revive me again". In Christ's Love, Pastor Mike

Prayer: War in the Middle East, Ukrainian War, Midge Gathers
Events: This Sunday 6:30 - 7:30 4th Sunday prayer for our church and for the spiritually lost.